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WASHINGTON, Feb 28, REUTER - MILITARY AND CIVILIAN

INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS TOLD SENATORS TODAY AN OUTRIGHT BAN ON USE OF JOURNALISTS, ACADEMICS AND CLERGYMEN AS COVER FOR ESPIONAGE SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF A PROPOSED INTELLIGENCE CHARTER.

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) WOULD LIKE TO DRAW UP ITS OWN GUIDELINES ON USING THOSE PROFESSIONS TO MASK ITS UNDERCOVER WORK; THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HEARD. THE COMMITTEE, IN ITS PROPOSED CHARTER TO GOVERN THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, INCLUDED THE BAN ON THE USE OF THE THREE GROUPS. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO ELIMINATE THE BAN AS WELL AS OTHER PROVISIONS IT FEELS ARE TOO RESTRICTIVE.

"THE PROHIBITION IS SO SWEEPING, IN FACT, THAT IT APPEARS TO PRECLUDE US FROM EVEN USING A MILITARY CHAPLAIN; A REPORTER FROM THE 'STARS AND STRIPES,' OR AN ANNOUNCER FOR THE ARMED FORCES RADIO FOR INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING PURPOSES EVEN IF THE PERSON VOLUNTEERED TO DO SO," SAID DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DANIEL MURPHY.

STARS AND STRIPES IS THE U.S. ARMED FORCES NEWSPAPER.

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MR MURPHY, A RETIRED U.S. NAVY ADMIRAL, SAID THE PENTAGON RECOGNIZED THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERN THAT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES NOT SUBVERT THE PROFESSIONS AND THEREBY CAST DOUBT UPON THEIR COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE WORRIED THAT WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF NEWSPEOPLE, PROFESSORS AND CLERICS, PEOPLE IN THOSE PROFESSIONS WORKING ABROAD COULD BE ENDANGERED.

FRANK CARLUCCI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CIA, DISAGREED.

"FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS IT HAS NOT BEEN PROHIBITED," HE SAID. "I DON'T THINK IT WOULD PUT JOURNALISTS IN ANY GREAT DANGER."

HE ADDED: "YOU COULD WRITE A PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF JOURNALISTS, ACADEMICS, AND CLERGY AND IT STILL WOULDN'T BE BELIEVED OVERSEAS."